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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 154  
By McNally

A RESOLUTION Memorializing the United States Congress to  
designate the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge as a  
National Prototype Center.

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee has played a critical role in our nation's nuclear weapons production complex since 1943, and its value to the weapons complex can be measured by the fact that every weapon in the current nuclear weapon stockpile has some part which was manufactured by Y-12; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge Complex was a major contributor to winning the Cold War, and will continue the fifty-year role of using the unique skills and facilities to help maintain the safety and reliability of the enduring United States nuclear weapons stockpile and safe storage of the remaining nuclear material; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. must reduce the size of the nuclear weapons complex to match the decline in the size of the stockpile, and those unique skills and facilities which are critical to national and economic security should not be allowed to disappear if there are national needs which could use these facilities and skills in a cost-effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant has in place the breadth and depth of manufacturing technologies to provide a solid foundation for a preeminent National Prototype Center; and

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WHEREAS, such a designated role would provide major benefits to the DOE, the Department of Defense and other federal agencies, industry, and the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, Y-12 has state-of-the-art facilities for the design, fabrication, and certification of very complex components made from a wide variety of materials; and

WHEREAS, Y-12 has skilled craftspersons with years of experience working with designers and research and development specialists resulting in capabilities ideally suited to the manufacture of precision prototype hardware and assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Y-12 has access to the expertise and capabilities of the entire Oak Ridge DOE Complex, including close working relationships with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and a history of teamwork with the laboratory on highly successful prototypes such as the U.S. Navy Seawolf prototype project; and

WHEREAS, the world class research and development services of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory have resulted in highly specialized skill centers in such areas as coatings, ceramics and composites that are of extreme value to prototyping projects; and

WHEREAS, the current ease of access to Y-12's unique capabilities, combined with the cost-effectiveness of prototyping at Y-12, will provide a great benefit to the defense community for specialized first-of-a-kind weapon system needs and also a great benefit to industry-boosting U.S. economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, Y-12's ongoing prototyping activities can assure that our nation better maintains the core competencies in nuclear weapons fabrication needed for continuing a credible nuclear deterrent; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby call upon the Tennessee Congressional Delegation to strongly support through legislative action the designation of the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge as "The

National Prototype Center”, and to encourage other executive agencies to increase their efficiency and cost-effectiveness by utilization of the Center at Y-12.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.